

3. USE AND MAINTENANCE

During a measurement with reference electrodes there must be good electrical contact between the reference system and process liquid. To guarantee this electrical contact, it is necessary to ensure there is sufficient electrolyte solution in the electrode or in the electrolyte reservoir.

In circumstances where the concentration is not stated on the type plate, a saturated KCl solution of KCl in demineralized water should be used to refill the electrode. When the concentration is stated e.g. Ag (3.3M) the electrode must be filled with 3.3 molal KCl. Order a 3.3M solution by part number K1500VA.

Types SR20(D)-..2.

The electrodes of this type are filled with a gelled electrolyte solution and refilling is not necessary. When there is insufficient electrolyte solution the electrode has probably been used at too high a temperature and therefore replacement by another type of reference electrode is recommended.

Types SR20(D)-AC32

To refill electrodes of this type a vacuum pump must be connected to the bottom of the electrode. Figure 13. On removing the electrode cap the pump will contract the bellow and refilling with electrolyte solution can be made.

ATTENTION:

The pump may be removed after replacing the electrode cap. It is recommended to replace the O rings (part number set of 5 O-rings: K1500GE).

If no vacuum pump is available, unscrew the electrode cap. Press down the bellow by means of a clean rod with a round top to prevent for damage of the bellow. Close the bottom end of the electrode with the enclosed rubber plug. After removing the rod the electrode can be filled with electrolyte solution. Mount the electrode cap and remove the rubber plug.

4. STORAGE

When a reference electrode is to remain unused for a long period it is necessary to fill the electrode completely with electrolyte solution, to close the refill opening, and to protect the diaphragm against drying out by fitting the protection sleeve. This protection sleeve must also be filled with electrolyte solution.

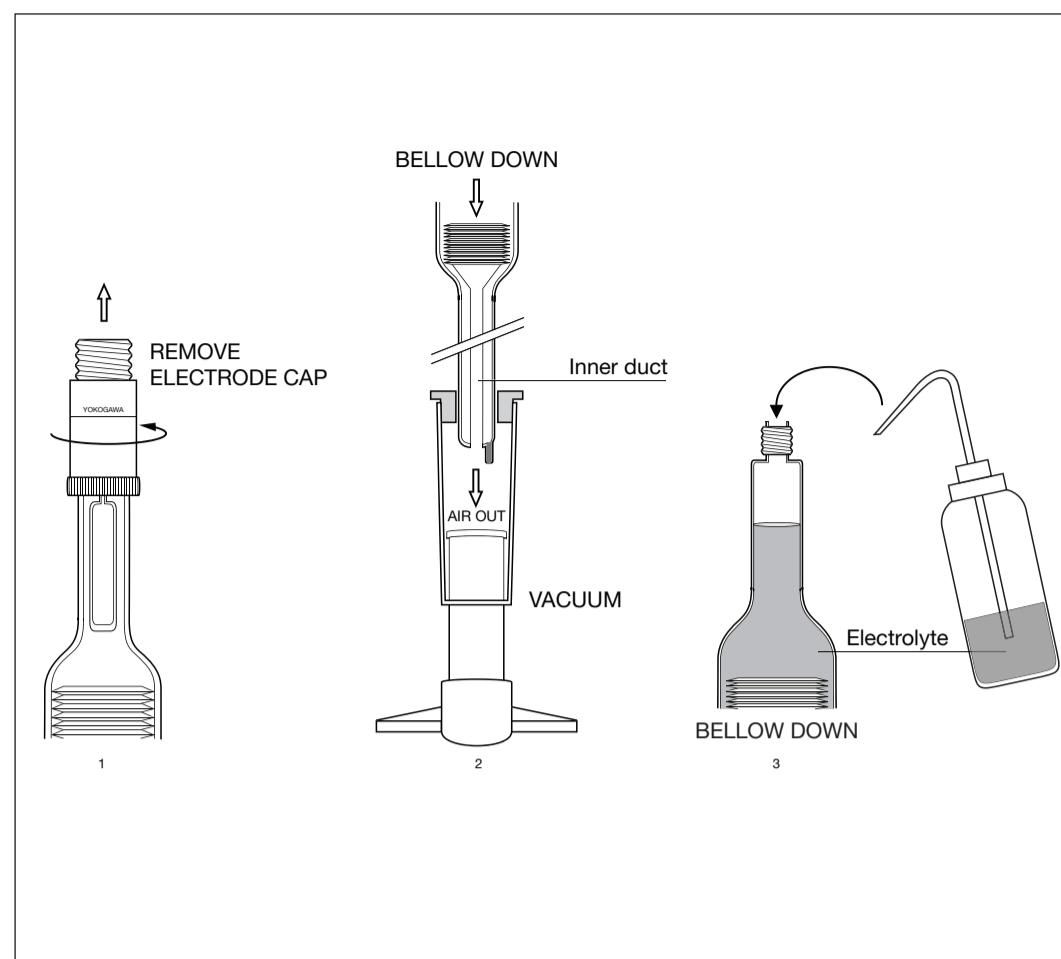


Figure 12. Refill Bellomatic (SR20(D)-AC32)

Electrodes of type SR20(D)-AC32 have an inner duct (figure 12) which contact the bellow with the process liquid. This duct must be sealed with the rubber plug.

With the electrodes (types SR20-AS52) the sleeve must be loosened and lifted. The hole in the fixed part must be closed by means of a protective sleeve or tape.

5. FAULTS

Generally, faults are caused by:

a. leakage to earth

Fault indications can be expected when the resistance between reference system and screening falls below 10^7 ohm. When a fault

occurs, first check if the electrode cable is in good condition and if the connector contacts and the terminals in the measuring instrument or connection box are clean and dry.

b. diaphragm fouling

Strongly polluted liquids can cause the diaphragm to foul very quickly. As a result, there will be a 'transition' resistance over the diaphragm. When this resistance exceeds $10^4\Omega$ there will be instability and faulty indication of the measured value. The above particularly occurs with flow type electrodes when the outlet flow of electrolyte solution is too low, e.g. with adverse pressure variations due to the medium, pumps or too low electrolyte level.

Fouled electrodes can be cleaned with hot water in conjunction with a domestic washing solution if necessary. When the fouling is caused by fat or hydroxides (lime) cleaning by means of an organic solvent or diluted acid respectively is recommended.

The diaphragm of electrodes with a ceramic diaphragm (types SR20-AC..) can be cleaned by rubbing it on emery paper.

Electrodes with a sleeve (types SR20-AS52) can be cleaned after lifting the loose part.

It may be necessary with non-flow electrodes (types SR20-AP2..) to place the electrode for some time in an electrolyte solution of 80°C. The electrode must remain in this solution until this solution has completely cooled.

c. poisoning

A reference electrode can be poisoned by the penetration of the process liquid or by diffusion of components of the process medium through the diaphragm. In addition, the inner liquid in combinations with dissolved particles from the process medium can give deposits which block the diaphragm (e.g. silver chloride + sulfide -> deposits of silver sulfide). When poisoning occurs replacement of the electrode will normally be necessary. It is recommended if poisoning of non-flow electrodes occurs to use another type of electrode.

d. poor conductivity of the process liquid

When the electrical conduction of a process liquid is very low an instability of reading will occur. This problem may be cured by adding electrolyte solution to the process liquid or by making the reference input of the measuring instrument high impedance.

6. CHECK

A quick check for correct functioning of a reference electrode can be made by connecting the electrode to the reference input of a pH meter. A known good reference electrode with the same reference system should be connected to the glass electrode input. After immersing both electrodes in a buffer solution the reading should be stable. The reading must be adjustable to pH 7 by means of the zero potentiometer ('ass. pot.'). If this is possible the reference electrode is functioning correctly.



User Manual

Directions for use reference Electrodes

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